I. AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please delete the "Brief Description of the Drawings" beginning at page 7, line 1 through page 12, line 2.

Please amend page 12, lines 14-15 as follows:

the amino acid sequence YSVCDS (GTACTCTGTGTGTGACAG) SEQ ID NO.: 3 & 4 and INAACV(CACACATGCAGCGTTGA) SEQ ID NO.: 5 & 6, which corresponded to two conserved

Please amend page 12, line 20 as follows:

regions of NT-6, were designed ~~(Figure 1)~~. Carp genomic DNA (0.6 ug) was

Please amend page 13, line 7 as follows:

GATACGGGGAGCC (SEQ ID NO.: 7)and AAGGGGCGGAGTCTCAG (SEQ ID NO.: 8)) located at the pre-pro and

Please amend page 13, lines 13-16 as follows:

corresponded to the conserved regions FYETTC (SEQ ID NO.: 13) and ACVCV (SEQ ID NO.: 14). To clone the fulllength *Xiphophorus* NGF and NT-6, two pairs or primers (CTTAGATCGTGTGCCCATG (SEQ ID NO.: 9) and GGGT-GAGTCTTCAATGCTG (SEQ ID NO.: 10) for NGF; ATAACGTGGACGTGTGCCC (SEQ ID NO.: 11) and CAAGAGCGGTCCACACCTC (SEQ ID NO.: 12) for NT-6) were

Please amend page 15, line 3 as follows:

insertion ~~(Figure 1)~~. The resulting product was analysed in agarose gel and

Please amend page 18, line 20 as follows:

corresponding to two conserved regions of NT-6 ~~(Figure 1 A)~~. Subsequent

Please amend page 19, lines 7-8 as follows:

two basic amino acids, arginine, followed by a mature region of 133 amino acids (~~Figure 1a~~ SEQ ID NO.: 1). The R-X-K/R-R sequence was conserved in all neurotrophins and

Please amend page 19, lines 14-17 as follows:

Xiphophorus NGF and NT-6 revealed 66% identity (~~Figure 2A~~). Moreover, alignment with carp BDNF, chick NT-3, and Xenopus NT-4 suggested even more distant relationships (~~Figure 2A~~). However, NT-7 lacked some amino acid residues which were conserved in all NGF molecules identified so far (~~Figure 2B~~).

Please amend page 20, lines 1-2 as follows:

was amplified from carp genomic DNA by one of the pairs of primers (~~Figure 1B~~). Analysis of the deduced amino acid sequence indicated its close

Please amend page 20, line 5 as follows:

Xenopus NT-4, respectively (~~Figures 2A and 2B~~). In addition, it lacked those

Please amend page 20, line 18 as follows:

respectively (~~Figure 3~~). This suggested that NGF, NT-6, and NT-7 did

Please amend page 21, line 3 as follows:

though weak expression was also found in brain and intestine (~~Figure 4A~~). This

Please amend page 21, line 10 as follows:

weak expression could be detected in skin (~~Figure 4B~~).

Please amend page 22, line 2 as follows:

without reverse transcriptase (~~Figure 5~~). Thus, the resulting product which

Please amend page 23, line 8 as follows:

NT-7 resulted in robust neurite outgrowth from E8 DRG (~~Figure 6~~). Moreover,

Please amend page 23, line 16 as follows:

7(D15) could support the survival of E8 chick DRG neurons ~~(Figure 7)~~. On the

Please amend page 24, line 7 as follows:

TrkC ~~(Figure 8)~~. It should be noted that despite the relatively weak level of TrkA

Please amend page 25, line 11 as follows:

similar to that of conditioned medium of mock-transfected cells ~~(Figure 9)~~.

Please amend page 26, line 7 as follows:

found in NT-7 ~~(Figure 2A)~~. Moreover, the insertion present in NT-7 was